

Bert Corona Charter High School  
Executive Administrator Report – Mr. Simonsen  
Nov 4, 2017

### **Mission**

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become life-long learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

### **Enrollment**

The current enrollment of Bert Corona High School is 207 as of Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>-

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	59
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	83
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	52
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	13
Total -	207

This number is 28 under projection for the approved FY 2017-2018 budget. The drop-off in enrollment of Bert Corona Middle School Graduates for the spring of 2016 was noticeable and had a significant impact on student morale and budget flexibility.

### **Staffing**

The final missing piece for BCCHS staffing was filled in this month. Our new Chemistry and Physics teacher started work during the second week of October. She is from Chile, has a Bachelors in Chemistry, a Masters in Environmental Engineering, and a PhD from UCLA in Environmental Engineering. She has been immediately embraced by our students as she is a wonderful example of the “rare but possible,” that is, a bicultural, bilingual woman with advanced and terminal degrees in the fields of science and engineering. She wanted to come to our school to work with students because she felt that the corporate environment was not meeting her desires for making a difference in people’s lives. We are very blessed to have her.

### **Student Academic Performance/Growth**

BCCHS Students did not take any periodic growth assessments in the months of October or November to this point. The next scheduled assessments are the NWEA MAPS assessments, which will take place during the first full week of December.

### **Parent Conferences**

BCCHS most recent parent conferences were a significant time of connection for students, parents and teachers. The teaching team always receives their due praise during these connections, and is able to enlist the help of parents to strategize how to assist students who are underperforming. The only difficulty presented by this year's conferences was the lack of time available to schedule all parents. There are too many different teachers in a student's schedule to afford a 10-minute face-to-face meeting with every parent and teacher. We hope to solve this problem with some strategic planning.

### **College Visitations, Applications, and Acceptances**

Ms. Palafox recently took four seniors to visit Grand Canyon University. The girls had received conditional letters of acceptance, and were very thrilled to see their possible new home for the next four years. Three of them fell in love with the campus, and one said she's going to wait for a better offer. Several students are applying to the CSU system as well as out-of-state public and private schools. It is a very nervous and exciting time for our 14 seniors, most of who have no immediate family members who are college graduates.

### **Professional Development**

While our professional development agenda was originally slated to be heavy on standards-based grading this fall, we have had many curve balls thrown our way, so have had a number of unanticipated PD trainings. We had an LAUSD DVR (District Validation Review), so had to spend two weeks preparing for this process. We also just recently received a new student who suffers from seizures, so needed to spend an afternoon with a nurse learning about seizure management. We also have one new teacher who is feeling significantly overwhelmed with the work of teaching EL students with behavior support issues, so have had to spend many hours providing behavioral support instead of instructional coaching. With the CSD LAUSD Oversight Visit looming on the horizon January 10, there will be a concerted effort to return to looking at student work, unit designs, and assessment tools so that we can say we are focused on teaching and learning for mastery.

## **SAC**

BCCHS just launched its first School Advisory Council to meet the requirements for *all stakeholder input* into the academic programming, climate and culture, and day to day operations of the school. Three students, two parents, two teachers, our Director of Operations, a community representative from LAPD, and the EA comprise this committee. We have held two meetings thus far in 2017, and the input has been fantastic. Our community members care very deeply for the school, and are willing to generate ideas and solve problems for the sake of its long-term viability.

## **CIF Sports**

Our volleyball team won 1 of its 3 inaugural matches this fall. It was a thrill for students, teachers and parents alike to watch the first CIF sports team in BCCHS history take on teams from other high schools. I made it to all three matches, which were hosted at high schools and community centers around Los Angeles, and I could not have been more proud. Coach Carroll instilled in his players just the right combination of competitiveness and good sportsmanship. Bert Corona would have been proud as well for the spirit of community these girls took with them wherever they went. They were always the kindest and happiest team on the court, and thanked the host schools and their supporters, win or lose.

## **Speech and Debate**

Another first was the amazing success rate of the BCCHS Speech and Debate Team in its first ever “Open Tournament” at Cleveland HS. The team went up against other novice teams, and brought back some very real victories. It was actually a bit shocking to see a group of novices, competing in their second language, led by a coach with no experience, do so well in an open tournament. A very time-honored academic tradition has been started at BCCHS, and has been quickly rewarded.

## **CTE Grant**

BCCHS has been included in a CTE grant that is anchored by Vaughn NCLC HS. Our CTE pathway is Media and Visual Arts, and we have an experienced career professional running our program. Ms. Demorgoli is new to teaching, but her expertise in the field is solid, so we are excited to be included in this grant, and looking forward to expanding our program.